

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

October 23, 2019

The Honorable Philip T. Reeker
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Reeker:

On October 17, 2019, the Democrat chairmen of the Oversight, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence Committees noticed your deposition for today, October 23, as part of their so-called “impeachment inquiry.”¹ On Monday night, we learned that you have agreed to reschedule your testimony to Saturday, October 26, when the House of Representatives will not be in session. Because the chairmen have excluded us from deliberations about deposition scheduling, we write to understand the circumstances that led to the rescheduling of your deposition to a date on which Members may not be able to attend.

We regret that we are compelled to seek this information from you; however, we have no confidence that Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff—who Speaker Pelosi chose to lead this “impeachment inquiry”—is operating fairly or in good faith. Since allegations of a potential *quid pro quo* arose in August 2019, Chairman Schiff has misled the American public about his involvement with the whistleblower complaint and publicly fabricated information about President Trump’s phone call with President Zelensky.² Chairman Schiff has chosen to conduct his inquiry behind closed doors with only a limited group of Members present, allowing selective leaks of cherry-picked information to paint misleading public narratives.

For these reasons, we were surprised and disappointed that you had agreed to appear for a deposition on Saturday. In light of Chairman Schiff’s pattern of closely restricting information about the “impeachment inquiry,” we can only assume that he selected Saturday’s date to further limit Member attendance and participation at your deposition. If you are willing and available to testify on a business day in the near future, we encourage you to testify on a business day to allow robust Member attendance and participation.

¹ Notice of Joint Depositions (Oct. 17, 2019).

² Glenn Kessler, *Schiff’s false claim his committee had not spoken to the whistleblower*, WASH. POST (Oct. 4, 2019).

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In addition to the surprise rescheduling of your deposition, we have questions about your announced participation in a panel discussion sponsored by the Atlantic Council.³ As you may know, in 2018, the Atlantic Council received between \$100,000 and \$249,999 from Burisma, the Ukrainian energy company linked to Hunter Biden.⁴ According to the *New York Times*, “Hunter Biden and his American business partners were part of a broad effort by Burisma to bring in well-connected Democrats during a period when the company was facing investigations backed not just by domestic Ukrainian forces but by officials in the Obama Administration.”⁵ As of yesterday morning, the Atlantic Council had removed your name as a panelist from the event.⁶

To better understand the circumstances surrounding the rescheduling of your deposition and your participation in the Atlantic Council event, we ask that you please provide the following information:

1. Please explain the circumstances that lead to the rescheduling of your deposition from October 23 to October 26.
 - a. When did the discussions about rescheduling your deposition begin?
 - b. Did you propose the rescheduling or did the Democrat staff?
 - c. What were the reasons given for rescheduling your deposition to a Saturday?
 - d. Did you discuss alternative business days on which to provide testimony?
2. Please explain whether you are represented by private counsel in this matter. If so, who is your attorney?
3. Please explain why your name was removed as a panelist from the Atlantic Council’s event, titled *More In The Med: Revitalizing Nato’s Southern Strategy For An Era of Great Power Competition?*

³ Atlantic Council (@AtlanticCouncil), Twitter, (Oct. 19, 2019, 10:10 AM) (Join us on Oct. 22 at 3pm to hear Gen. Jim Jones, @StateDept's Phil Reeker, @ARVershbow & @ItalyinUS discuss why NATO urgently needs to do #MoreintheMed even as we face great challenges to the east.)
<https://twitter.com/atlanticcouncil/status/1185604187679277056?s=21>.

⁴ Atlantic Council, Honor roll of contributors, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/support-the-council/honor-roll-of-contributors/> (last accessed on Oct. 22, 2019).

⁵ Kenneth P. Vogel & Iuliia Mendel, *Biden faces conflict of interest questions that are being promoted by Trump and allies*, N.Y. TIMES (May 1, 2019).

⁶ *More In The Med: Revitalizing Nato’s Southern Strategy For An Era of Great Power Competition*, Atlantic Council, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/more-in-the-med-revitalizing-natos-southern-strategy-for-an-era-of-great-power-competition/>.

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We look forward to your responses as soon as possible. If you are represented by private counsel, please forward this letter to your attorney and ask him or her to contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Acting Chairwoman

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Eliot Engel
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Adam Schiff
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence